State of Uttar Pradesh respectively.

(c) In a continuing endeavour for making justice pormpt and affordable, Government intends further to simplify judicial procedures, increase the number of courts and judicial posts, strengthen the infrastructure for administering justice by providing additional funds for construction of court buildings and residential facilities, and adopt Lok Adalats, *Nyaya Panchayats* and other alternative and locally appropriate methods of dispute resolution.

[English]

Outstanding Income Tax

3278. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Income Tax pending realisation for more than three years and as at present;

(b) the amount of the above tax written off during the last three years alongwith the grounds therefor; and

(c) the details of that income Tax payers in whose favours outstanding tax exceeding Rupees one lakh was written off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

3279. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has modern gadgets installed such as computer, telex, teleprinting, etc. which are in Roman Script and these are being converted into bilingual;

(b) if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets likely to be put into use by the Ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi likely to be promoted;

(d) whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their offices located in Region 'A' where work has to be done cent per cent in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such an exemption?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Most of the equipments such as computers, electronic typewriter etc. in use in the Ministry are bilingual. Some old equipments in Roman Script are also being converted into bilingual equipments.

(b) Necessary training is provided to concerned staff. This will help in Presenting documents bilingually like Cabinet Note, Reports etc.

(c) The use of modern gadgets will improve the quality and standard of bilingual documents and facilitate use of Hindi in the official work of the Ministry.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Pending Cases of Income Tax

3280. SHRI ANNA SAHIB M. K. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of references made by the Income Tax Department pending before the High Courts for hearing, High Court-wise for the last three years;

(b) the details of the estimated revenue involved;

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed for clearance of these pending cases and results thereof for the last three years;

(d) whether the position of pending cases has been reviewed recently and important decisions taken to deal with the problem of growing pendency of reference to the High Courts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The High Court-wise information regarding the references made by the Income-Tax Department, and which are pending for the last three years is not maintained.

Consolidated information on number of cases which are filed by the Department before High Courts and are pending at the end of 31st March for the last three years are as under:-

Year	Number
31.03.94	42603
31.03.95	39666
31.03.96	41918

(b) The details of estimated revenue are not maintained.

(c) The Department has taken up the matter with Hon'ble Delhi High Court for bunching of common issues in all the appeals/references for which an exclusive Joint Registrar who is heading Judicial Management and Legal Research Cell in the Delhi High Court is functioning. The Department has also provided requisite assistance to the Joint Registrar in the form of manpower. As a result 404 cases of Income Tax References have been bunched, listed and decided. 11 petitions under section 256(2) (ITCs) have been bunched, listed and decided. Similarly, 21 petitions under section 27(3) of the Wealth Tax Act have been

bunched, listed and decided. 1105 Wealth Tax References have been bunched, listed and decided.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Specific measures taken by the Department to reduce litigation in assessment and collection of tax are enumerated below:-

1. To clarify various legal issues and to reduce avoidable litigation, circulars are issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes at the time of introduction of the various provisions and also subsequently.
2. Directions have been issued to make prima-facie adjustment u/s. 143(1) (a) only on those issues on which no two views are possible.
3. A very small percentage of returns are taken up for scrutiny.
4. Continuous efforts are being made to simplify law so that there is less and less scope for litigation. Consequently presumptive taxation of income (u/s. 44AD and 44AE) have been enacted. An Expert Group has been set up to rationalise and simplify the Income Tax Act in entirety. The report of the Group has been submitted.
5. To avoid repetitive appeals on identical question of law pending before High Court or Supreme Court, a new Chapter XIV A prescribing procedure for avoiding repetitive appeal has been introduced with effect from 1.4.84.
6. Instructions have been issued to field formations not to engage in unnecessary litigations and accept appellate decisions of Commissioners of Income-Tax (Apeals) unless the findings are perverse. Monthly review of a percentage of appeals filed before Income Tax Appellate tribunal by the Chief Commissioners of Income-Tax/Directors General of Income-Tax has also been prescribed.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

3281. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the loss to Neyveli Lignite Corporation due to water wall punctures in energy production in Thermal Power Station-II;

(b) the fuel oil consumption per kwh in TPS-I and II during 1996-97 and how does it compare with the normal consumption standard;

(c) the details of production loss to Neyveli Lignite Corporation due to flooding during the last three years;

(d) the recommendations of the Experts Committee in this regard; and

(e) the action taken to deal with the problem effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The loss to Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) due to water wall puncture in energy production in Thermal Station II is 243.369 Million Units for the year 1996-97.

(b) A comparative statement with the normal consumption standard (CEA norms) and actual consumption for the year 1996-97 for Thermal Station I and Thermal Station II is furnished below upto 28th February, 1997:-

(in ml/Kwhr)

Thermal Station I		Thermal Station II	
Standard	Actual	Standard	Actual
3.00	3.189	5.00	2.91

(c) The production loss to NLC due to flooding during last three years is as under:

	TPS	MINES
1994-95	Nil	Nil
1995-96	Nil	Nil
1996-97	177.764 m.u.	3.75 lakh tonnes

(d) As the flooding in both the Mines was only due to incessant and copious rains and not due to any inrush of water from the outer area, the Expert Committee recommended raising and widening the bund levels inside the Mines and housing the ground water pumps and the connected electrical installations at a higher level.

(e) Action was taken on a war footing to restore the Mines back to normalcy by increasing the pumping capacity wherever possible.

Changes in Newsprint Policy

3282. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made some changes in the policy of newsprint in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons for change; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure good quality newsprint and paper for printing text books, news etc.?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken following steps:-

(i) 10% customs duty on import of newsprint has been imposed since 29.10.1996.